

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: February 8, 2008 Comment Deadline: March 7, 2008 Corps Action ID #: 200100632

The Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application from the Town of Emerald Isle seeking Department of the Army authorization to impact Section 10 and Section 404 waters associated with maintenance dredging in Bogue Inlet Channel and depositing the material along the western portion of oceanfront shoreline at Emerald Isle, Carteret County, North Carolina. The Town's request is being considered under the authorization of the September 15, 2004 issued permit.

Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usacc.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant:

Town of Emerald Isle

Attn: Frank Rush, Town Manager

7500 Emerald Drive

Emerald Isle, North Carolina 28594

Agent:

Coastal Planning & Engineering of NC, Inc.

Attn: Tom Jarrett

330 Shipyard Boulevard

Wilmington, North Carolina 28412

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and a decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Location

The project site is located within the Bogue Inlet Complex at the western end of Emerald Isle, Carteret County, North Carolina. The project is composed on two locations, the dredging area and the disposal area. The dredging site is within the Bogue Inlet floodtide delta, whereas the disposal site is located along the Bogue Inlet shoulder and ocean shoreline at the western tip of Emerald Isle.

Existing Site Conditions

In September 2004, the Town was authorized to relocate the inlet channel in a central position of the inlet and place approximately 809,500 cubic yards of material along 4.5 miles of the Town's ocean shoreline. This work was completed sometime early April 2005. The inlet channel continues to generally hold that central location, while the western tip of Emerald Isle has experienced some adjustments, both erosion and accretion. A western spit has formed, or accreted, on the western tip of Emerald Isle, where the pre-construction inlet channel was situated; and erosion conditions have occurred along the western end of the ocean shoreline and inlet shoulder. Current conditions at the disposal area exhibit an existing sandbag line in front of the vegetated dune line on approximately six residential oceanfront homes located on Inlet Drive. The distance between the sandbag placement and the existing homes ranges from approximately 100 feet, at the eastern end of the sandbag line, to less than 5.0 feet at the western end along the inlet shoulder.

It should be noted that the September 15, 2004 issued permit expiration date was extended to December 31, 2009 by our office in a letter dated December 19, 2007. The expiration extension does not authorize any activity; it only extends the expiration date.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

<u>Basic:</u> The basic purpose is to recapture the alignment and design dimension of a portion of the Bogue Inlet Channel and to place the material on the beach to help curb shoreline erosion.

Overall: The stated purpose of the proposal is to conduct dredging in the northern-most reach of the new Bogue Inlet Channel and to place the material along the ocean shoreline to mitigate current oceanfront erosion impacts associated with continuing inlet-related shoreline adjustments in that area. The extracted material will come from the footprint of the original permitted alignment and will provide beach compatible material for the section of the oceanfront that is experiencing erosion.

Project Description

The Town is proposing to re-dredge a section of the channel's footprint previously permitted that is located in the floodtide delta in front of Dudley's Island. The dimensions of the new channel will be 2,100 feet long by 150 feet wide with slopes constructed at 1:5. A portion of the dredging will take place within a shoaling area that is currently -2.0 feet below mean low water and is located just to the east of the existing channel. The dredging area will extend southward from this shoaling area and will be tapered into the existing channel. Plans show final depth will be -17 feet below mean low water. The estimated volume of material to be extracted, based on a November 2007 hydrographic survey, is approximately 174,000 cubic yards of material.

The material dredged from the channel will be pumped via pipeline and placed along the oceanfront shoreline starting at a point 300 feet west of Coast Guard Road and extending westward approximately 2,000 feet around the point into Bogue Inlet. The dimensions of the disposal area are 2,000 feet long by 600 feet wide, of which 2,000 feet long by 400 feet wide, or 18.5 acres, will encompass an area below the mean high tide line. The disposal fill will have a variable crest width constructed to an elevation of +5.0 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum).

All dredging work will be conducted by a cutterhead hydraulic dredge, while the bulldozers will be used to move and shape the material at the disposal site.

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, 401 Oversight and Express Permits Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260.

The applicant has not provided to the Corps, a certification statement that his/her proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved North Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program. Pursuant to 33 CFR 325.2(b)(2), the Corps can not issue a permit for the proposed work until the applicant submits such a certification to the Corps and the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM), and the NCDCM notifies the Corps that it concurs with the applicant's consistency certification.

Essential Fish Habitat

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project may adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service. Describe anticipated impacts.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), that the proposed project may affect federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat. Describe anticipated impacts. Consultation under Section 7 of the ESA will be initiated and no permit will be issued until the consultation process is complete.

Evaluation

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

Commenting Information

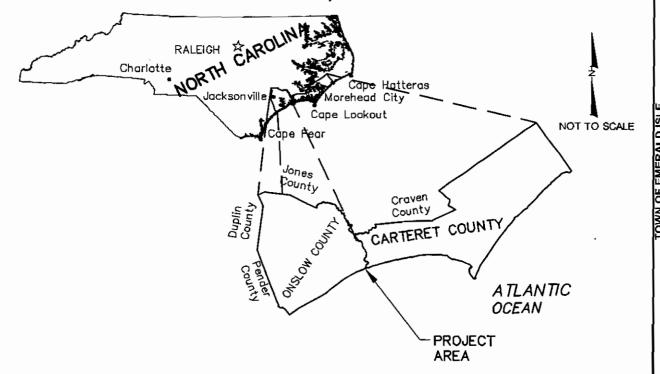
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials, including any consolidate State Viewpoint or written position of the Governor; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a

public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, March 7, 2008. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Mickey Sugg, Post Office Box 1890, Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890, or via internet at mickey.t.sugg@usace.army.mil. If you have any questions concerning this application, please contact Mr. Sugg at (910) 251-4811.

TOWN OF EMERALD ISLE THE POINT SHORELINE RESTORATION AND BOGUE INLET CHANNEL MAINTENANCE PROJECT CARTERET COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA





SHORELINE RESTORATION CHANNEL MAINTENANCE PROJECT

THE POINT AND BOGUE INLET

JRC COMM NO. 4500.20 SHEET:

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